

105.2090-Catherine Rastall-pl

STATEMENT OF MISS CATHERINE RASTALL
Made on September 13, 1926 to Mr. Pfeiffer
Put in Narrative Form.

I went to the State Theatre to see a movie between 7.30 and 8.00 on Thursday night, September 14, 1922 by myself and did not have an appointment to meet Mr. Gorsline after the movies.

I looked at my watch as I came out of the theatre and it was a little before 10.00. I stayed through part of the second movies until I had seen the whole show and wore an accurate wrist watch. Coming out of the theatre on Livingston Avenue I turned towards George Street and as I was near the Y. M. C. A. next door to the Theatre Mr. Gorsline came out, asked if I was going home, and said he would drive me home. I live at No. 13 Senior Street, right off College Avenue. I got in the front seat of his green A person open car with him and we drove down Livingston Avenue to George Street, through George Street to Hamilton, through Hamilton to College Avenue, through College Avenue to George Street, through George Street to Landing Lane, through Landing Lane to Easton Avenue, through Easton Avenue to De Russeys Lane and then through De Russeys Lane to the first lane on the left going in to the Phillips. I had been there several times in September, 1922 before this night with Mr. Gorsline and we parked approximately in the same place as usual. When I went with the State Trooper and Inspector Underwood the other day I showed them just where we were parked in the first lane on the left. I should say we were parked about 40 feet or two car lengths off De Russeys Lane not far in. Our headlights were not very bright but I can't say whether they were on full or not. We could not see very far ahead in the road. Mr. Gorsline drove the car out to De Russeys Lane without going exceedingly fast or slowing up. We didn't stop anywhere. We were in Phillips Lane about ten or fifteen minutes. I fixed the time this way. I got

home about 10.20 or 10.25 and I figured it took us about five minutes or so to go up there and a little time to go back. It would only take about five minutes to go from where the car was parked to my house. When I got in my house I did not look at my watch but when I went to bed and took the watch off to wind it, it was just about 10.30. My father and mother were both home and saw me come in. They said it was about 10.25.

While we were parked in the Lane the lights of the car were turned out and they were not turned on again until we went out of the Lane. We had not been in the Lane very long, only a couple of minutes or so, when we heard a kind of mumbling voices and I thought it came from the rear of the car, from towards De Russes Lane. It was a couple of minutes after that when we heard one shot, then a scream, and then three shots. I did not hear anything after the three shots but said "We had better get out of here". I know Mr. Gorsline says that he remembers he heard the mumbling in front of the car and I can't figure it out yet, because that seemed to me to come from De Russes Lane. That would be in the rear of the car. It just seemed as if somebody was talking, not quarreling, but you could not understand what they were saying. I did not see any other automobiles. I understand that Mr. Gorsline says that when he came in the Lane he saw an automobile go out. I don't know whether he saw that or not. I did not see any automobile come out and Mr. Gorsline said nothing to me about it. I was in the car, right alongside of Mr. Gorsline, all the time and I did not hear him speak to any man who passed the car. I would have heard him had he done so and I did not see anyone go by. Inspector Underwood, however, told me Mr. Gorsline said that he spoke to a man.

The mumbling did not sound like quarreling, but just like two

people talking ordinarily. You could not understand what they were saying but it did not sound like quarreling, just a mumbling. It had stopped before the first shot and it seemed to me as if the people were walking away, as if they were just talking away and going. I did not take particular notice of it but it stopped two or three minutes before the first shot and I did not hear it afterwards. There was no sudden stoppage of the mumbling followed by a shot at once.

I took the Police to the place where our car was parked that night and they took me to the crab apple tree. We walked in a straight line from one place to ^{the} other and I have been told that it is about 700 feet. The Police told me that the way the car was parked you could see by our headlights over to the crab apple tree and I can't figure it out yet. I don't see how we could because the way we were parked we were not facing the crab apple tree but towards the Phillips farmhouse. The crab apple tree was off to the side. We left immediately after the final three shots. There was just a small interval and a scream between the first shot and the last three. The scream was by a frightened person but it was difficult to tell whether it was a man or a woman. Now I don't believe I have any doubt but that it was the woman, but it was a frightened scream, that is about all I can say about it.

The mumbling seemed to be people talking and walking away from where we were. I could not say whether it was two, or more than two. The voices seemed to die away because they got further and further away from me.

I never told anybody I had been in the Lane that night until last week in Somerville. I thought the night was good and dark but don't remember whether the stars were out. Mr. Gorsline's car had the top up. I did not

see any cars in the Lane, or in Easton Avenue, or in that vicinity. I did not see Mrs. Gibson or hear a voice saying "Explain those letters" or anything of that kind. I did not see a mule or hear a mule bray. I did not see Mrs. Hall or William Stevens, or Harry Carpenter there that night or anywhere else. I did not see Mr. Hall or Mrs. Mills anywhere that night and did not have any conversation with Mr. Gorsline that night in which the name of Mr. Hall or Mrs. Mills was mentioned. Mr. Gorsline never said anything to me about the relationship of Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills or the notes passing between them, nor did I know of notes passing between them. I did not know of any improper relationship between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills and do not know whether any member of the church knew there were notes between them in existence. I had no intimation of improper relationship between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills and it was a shock to me when I heard that they were murdered together. I knew Mrs. Hall in connection with the church but had only seen her in connection with the church and Sunday school. I sang in the choir and was in the Sunday school but did not belong to St. Mary's Guild. I worked at the Experiment Station right across from Mrs. Hall's. We used to have choir rehearsals on Friday and I might have been at her house for supper the Friday night before September 14. I think I was. I lived at the opposite end of town. I never discussed Mrs. Mills with Mrs. Hall or said anything about Mrs. Mills to her nor did I ever hear anyone say anything about Mrs. Mills to Mrs. Hall. I don't know whether Mr. Gorsline knew of any improper relationship between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills prior to the murders but I never talked to him about it.

After Mr. Gorsline left me at my house Thursday night I next saw him Friday night at the choir rehearsal at the church. We said nothing whatever

I had not communicated in any way with any representatives of the defense and had not talked with Mrs. Hall or any member of the Hall, Stevens or Carpenter families. I saw Mr. Russell Watson the following Thursday afternoon and after I had talked with him met you (Mr. Pfaffner) on the road between Bound Brook and New Brunswick. From there I went directly to Somerville. When I met you on the roadside between Bound Brook and New Brunswick you told me to go and tell the truth and that you could not suggest a lawyer because you were on the defense, but that if I felt I needed a lawyer I should talk with my father and have him retain a lawyer for me. The Police did not ask whether I had been in communication with you or any lawyer for the defense, but did ask if I had been in communication with Mrs. Hall, and I said "No". They have not yet asked me about talking with Mr. Watson and with you. If they do I will tell them exactly what happened. I am now telling the whole truth and not concealing anything that has any bearing upon the solution of the crime. I am certain that I saw no one other than Mr. Gorsline while I was in De Russes Lane and that Mr. Gorsline saw no one but me. The only voices I heard were those that seemed to be mumbling back of the car and a scream between the shots.

I have now told the Police the entire truth and what I have told you is the same that I told them.

that night about what had happened on Thursday night. When we left the Lane Mr. Coreline backed out and then went ahead to Easton Avenue. We went home through Landing Lane to George Street, through George Street to College Avenue, through College Avenue to Senior Street. I don't remember what we said after we heard the shots and I said "Let's get out of here" or words to that effect, but I think we said something about wondering what the shots were. The next time I saw Mr. Coreline was Saturday^{after} noon when he came up to my house with his cousin Harold Pick after we had heard about the finding of the bodies. It was a little after two. I had been downtown and seen it on the Bulletin Board on Snyder's window. When they came to the house I went to the door and Harold said that they were going up and did I want to go along. I said "Yes" and we went in Mr. Coreline's car. I sat in the back.

We parked on De Russays Lane and went into the Lane near the crab apple tree which is not the one we parked in Thursday night. When we got in the Lane Mr. Coreline pointed across and said "That is where we were parked". We were standing along and he added "If we could have turned the light on, why we could have been able to see" or something like that, but I don't think he realized we were so far away. He pointed towards the first lane that came off De Russays Lane.

I drove back with Mr. Coreline to my house and the next time I saw him was at church on Sunday. Then we talked about Thursday night and agreed in effect that we should not say anything about having been out there.

I went to Somerville last Wednesday^{night} with my father but had been there once several weeks before. Mr. Pettit came over to Somerville while I was there Wednesday night. Before I went to Somerville last Wednesday